

**CLAIMS**

- 1 1. A method for integrating a third-party system with an online meeting system, the method  
2 comprising:  
3 providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality of procedures for  
4 communicating with a meeting services application of the online meeting system;  
5 implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software module to perform,  
6 when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in accordance with the third-  
7 party system; and  
8 calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI procedure of the  
9 software module to perform the meeting-related operation.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the called SPI procedure notifies the software module of  
2 a proposed transaction of an event in the online meeting system to enable the software  
3 module to perform the meeting-related operation before the event occurs.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising prohibiting the occurrence of the event in  
2 response to performing the meeting-related operation implemented by the called SPI  
3 procedure.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising redirecting by the called SPI procedure a user  
2 of the online meeting system to an error page in response to prohibiting the event.
- 1 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising modifying meeting-related information  
2 associated with the proposed event in response to performing the meeting-related  
3 operation implemented by the called SPI procedure.

- 1    6.    The method of claim 1, wherein the called SPI procedure notifies the software module of  
2            an event that has occurred in the online meeting system to enable the software module to  
3            perform the meeting-related operation in response to the occurrence of that event.
- 1    7.    The method of claim 1, further comprising installing a new software module that  
2            implements one of the SPI procedures, and dynamically integrating the new software  
3            module to the meeting services application without stopping the online meeting system.
- 1    8.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calling the implemented SPI procedure is in  
2            response to receiving a user request to create, edit, or delete a meeting.
- 1    9.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calling the implemented SPI procedure is in  
2            response to detecting a state change of a running meeting.
- 1    10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising defining a first class that implements the SPI  
2            and a second class that extends the first class and implements the called SPI procedure  
3            that performs the customized method-related operation.
- 1    11.   An online meeting system, comprising a server system having memory for storing  
2            program code and a processor for executing the program code, the program code  
3            including:  
4                a meeting service application for providing online meeting services for users  
5                communicating with the online meeting system over a network connection;  
6                a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality of procedures for  
7                communicating with the meeting services application; and

8                   a software module implementing one of the procedures of the SPI to perform a  
9                   meeting-related operation customized in accordance with a third-party system when the  
10                  procedure is called by the meeting service application.

1   12.   The online meeting system of claim 11, wherein the implemented SPI procedure, when  
2           called, notifies the software module of a proposed transaction of an event in the online  
3           meeting system to enable the software module to perform the meeting-related operation  
4           before the event occurs.

1   13.   The online meeting system of claim 12, wherein the implemented SPI procedure includes  
2           program code for throwing an exception to prohibit the occurrence of the event in  
3           response to performing the meeting-related operation.

1   14.   The online meeting system of claim 11, wherein the called SPI procedure notifies the  
2           software module of an event that has occurred in the online meeting system to enable the  
3           software module to perform the meeting-related operation in response to the occurrence  
4           of that event.

1   15.   The online meeting system of claim 11, wherein the server system includes a means of  
2           storing software modules to be integrated in the online meeting system, and wherein the  
3           meeting services application periodically accesses the storage means to install  
4           dynamically any software module newly added to the storage means without stopping the  
5           online meeting system.

1   16.   The online meeting system of claim 11, further comprising program code defining a first  
2           class that implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second class that

3 extends the first class and provides a customized implementation of one of the SPI  
4 procedures defined in the first class.

1 17. An apparatus for integrating a third-party system with an online meeting system, the  
2 apparatus comprising:

3 means for providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality of  
4 procedures for communicating with a meeting services application of the online meeting  
5 system;

6 means for implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software module to  
7 perform, when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in accordance with the  
8 third party system; and

9 means for calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI  
10 procedure of the software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the means for calling the implemented SPI procedure  
2 includes means for notifying the software module of a proposed transaction of an event in  
3 the online meeting system to enable the software module to perform the meeting-related  
4 operation before the event occurs.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for calling the implemented SPI procedure  
2 includes means for prohibiting the occurrence of the event in response to performing the  
3 meeting-related operation.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for defining a first class that  
2 implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second class that extends the first

3 class and provides a customized implementation of one of the SPI procedures defined in  
4 the first class.

1 21. A computer program product for use with a computer system, the computer program  
2 product comprising a computer useable medium having embodied therein program code  
3 comprising:  
4 program code for providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality  
5 of procedures for communicating with a meeting services application of the online  
6 meeting system;  
7 program code for implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software  
8 module to perform, when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in  
9 accordance with the third party system; and  
10 program code for calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI  
11 procedure of the software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the program code for calling the  
2 implemented SPI procedure includes program code for notifying the software module of  
3 a proposed transaction of an event in the online meeting system to enable the software  
4 module to perform the meeting-related operation before the event occurs.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the program code for calling the  
2 implemented SPI procedure includes program code for prohibiting the occurrence of the  
3 event in response to performing the meeting-related operation.

1 24. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising program code for  
2 defining a first class that implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second  
3 class that extends the first class and provides a customized implementation of one of the  
4 SPI procedures defined in the first class.

1 25. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for use with a computer system  
2 having a display and capable of generating a user interface through which a user may  
3 interact with the computer system, the computer data signal comprising:  
4 program code for providing a service provider interface (SPI) defining a plurality  
5 of procedures for communicating with a meeting services application of the online  
6 meeting system;  
7 program code for implementing one of the procedures of the SPI by a software  
8 module to perform, when executed, a meeting-related operation customized in  
9 accordance with the third party system; and  
10 program code for calling by the meeting service application the implemented SPI  
11 procedure of the software module to perform the meeting-related operation.

1 26. The computer data signal of claim 25, wherein the program code for calling the  
2 implemented SPI procedure includes program code for notifying the software module of  
3 a proposed transaction of an event in the online meeting system to enable the software  
4 module to perform the meeting-related operation before the event occurs.

- 1    27.    The computer data signal of claim 25, wherein the program code for calling the  
2           implemented SPI procedure includes program code for prohibiting the occurrence of the  
3           event in response to performing the meeting-related operation.
  
- 1    28.    The computer data signal of claim 25, further comprising program code for defining a  
2           first class that implements the plurality of procedures of the SPI and a second class that  
3           extends the first class and provides a customized implementation of one of the SPI  
4           procedures defined in the first class.